

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph beginning on page 3 through page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a second aspect, the present invention provides a data modulation method comprising the steps of mapping a plurality of 4-bit data words to a plurality of 3-bit code words in a memory, segmenting a data bit stream into a plurality of 4-bit data words by successively shifting two bits at a time, converting higher significant two bits of each 4-bit data word to a 3-bit code word correspondingly mapped to the 4-bit data word in the memory and converting lower significant two bits of the 4-bit data word as higher significant two bits of a subsequent 4-bit data word to a 3-bit code word correspondingly mapped to the subsequent 4-bit data word so that a channel bit stream having no consecutive 1's is produced by a plurality of said 3-bit code words, determining a digital sum value of the channel bit stream, detecting a first predetermined one of the 3-bit code words which is consecutive with a second predetermined one of the 3-bit code words, and replacing the detected code word with a code word "000" if the replacement results in the digital sum value approaching zero.

Please replace the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph on page 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The second embodiment of the present invention can be modified as shown in the flowchart of Fig. 10, in which parts corresponding in significance to those of Fig. 8 are marked with the same numerals and the description thereof is omitted ~~imitted~~. In this modification, the parameter update subroutine is executed immediately following step 221, and steps 501, 502 and 503 are provided to be executed following step 204.